

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 201330Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5680

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1161

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, UR

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV KREMLINOLOGY

1. ON THE EVE OF THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS, YUGOSLAV KREMLINOLOGISTS ARE CAREFULLY ANALYZING THE SOVIET SCENE AND THE SOVIETS HERE ARE CAREFULLY WATCHING THEM WATCH. "POLITIKA'S" MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT BAJALSKI FOUND "PRAVDA" FEB 14 EDITORIAL'S EMPHASIS ON THE 20TH PARTY CONGRESS AND FEB 16 "IZVESTIYA" STRESS ON DEMOCRACY HOPEFUL SIGNS. HE ASSERTED THERE WAS NO EMPHASIS ON 20TH CONGRESS BEFORE THE 24 CONGRESS. A MIDDLE-LEVEL FSFA KREMLINOLOGIST CALLED POLCOUNS PARTICULARLY TO DRAW HIS ATTENTION TO "PRAVDA" EDITORIAL AND TO SAY YUGOSLAVS ENCOURAGED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT, THOUGH THEY RECOGNIZE IT MIGHT BE TACTICAL IN VIEW SITUATION AMONG WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES.

2. ON OTHER HAND SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER EXPRESSED TO US CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION OVER BAJALSKI PIECE AND OVER YUGOSLAV HABIT OF SEEING NON-EXISTENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET UNION. HE SAID WHILE SOVIET AMBASSADOR STEPANOV ENCOUNTERED PESSIMISM IN MOSCOW AT BEGINNING HIS DECEMBER-JANUARY TRIP (PARTICULARLY OVER  
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AGRICULTURE AND US-SOVIET RELATIONS), MOOD SUBSTANTIALY

IMPROVED BY TIME HE LEFT AND STRESS WAS STILL ON CONTINUITY FOR CONGRESS. THERE WAS NOTHING NEW IN "PRAVDA" PIECE AND ONLY REASON YUGOSLAVS SAW SOMETHING WAS THAT THEY HAD MISINTERPRETED 24TH CONGRESS AS PARTIAL RETURN TO STALINISM. SOVIET EMBOFF CLAIMED HIS LEADERSHIP PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO YUGOSLAV TENDENCY TO SEE WORKERS SELF-MANAGEMENT AS FUTURE PATH FOR SOVIET UNION. WE HEAR OF FREQUENT DEMARCHES BY SOVIET EMBASSY ON YUGOSLAV MEDIA COVERAGE.

3. TITO HAS PERSONALLY RESPONDED TO THIS SENSITIVITY. IN FEB 1 "VJESNIK" INTERVIEW HE CRITICIZED FACT "SOME JOURNALISTS DO NOT UNDERSTAND CERTAIN THINGS (ABOUT SPECIFIC COUNTRIES) AND WRITE IN SUCH A WAY THAT LATER WE MUST APOLOGIZE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS " -- TANJUG DIPLOMATIC EDITOR SAYS TITO RNEARLY HAD SOVIETS IN MIND, SPECIFICALLY, A JOURNALIST FOR "BORBA" TOLD US THAT TITO HAS ORDERED THAT THERE BE NO SPECULATION IN YUGOSLAV PRESS ABOUT POSSIBLE LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN SOVIET UNION. RESULT IS FEB 18 ARTICLE ON 25TH CONGRESS BY "BORBA" MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT MILINOVIC THAT COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY SOVIET AND WAS PRAISED BY SOVIET EMBOFF THER FOR ITS "OBJECTIVITY". NEEDLESS TO SAY THERE IS CONSIDERABLY LESS CONCERN HERE ABOUT WETERN SENSITIVITIES -- WE ARE WORKING TO BRING ABOUT MORE BALANCE.  
SWEITZER

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